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The Sowing of Alfalfa.

Alfalfa is a crop which the Missouri farmer is learning to grow. It is one of those crops which is sure to be used more extensively as our lands become higher in price. The idea that it can not be grown successfully in Missouri is largely a matter of not understanding the requirements of the plant. There is little doubt that the not distant future will see alfalfa grown to a greater or less extent in each section of the state. In the richer sections it will be grown on the uplands, and in thinner sections it will be grown in the fertile valleys and bottoms.

Experiments which the Agricultural Experiment Station has been conducting with farmers throughout the state have shown many interesting results and in many cases they have practically solved the problem of getting a stand. Briefly summarized the results are as follows:

First, that on uplands of average fertility liberal manuring should give good results. It is useless to sow alfalfa on poor land and expect a satisfactory yield, but where the soil receives a liberal application of manure there is usually no difficulty in growing it profitably if the land is reasonably well drained. Since, as a rule, the average farmer wants only a few acres of alfalfa this manuring is perfectly feasible in most cases.

Second, that inoculation of the soil on uplands is usually of much benefit and is generally necessary to success.

Third, that the best time to sow alfalfa on most upland soils is in August, although on the richer uplands and the bottom lands spring sowing may be just as successful.

Fourth, that on a few soils in the state which have a tendency to sourness, liming will be a benefit and may be a necessity.

Fifth, that top dressing with manure in the fall and the cultivation of the land with disc or spring tooth harrow after each cutting if possible, usually accomplishes beneficial returns.

Briefly the best method of handling alfalfa is to break the land early in the summer, plowing under a liberal dressing of manure. The land should be worked down and cultivated whenever the weeds begin to start until the middle of August (for central Missouri) when the seed should be sown. In north Missouri somewhat earlier seeding will usually be better, in south Missouri the seed may be sown somewhat later. Experiments indicate, however, that early August seeding even for south Missouri is frequently better than later seeding.

Just before sowing there should be scattered over the land broadcast, or drilled in with a grain drill, two or three hundred pounds of inoculate soil. This soil may be taken from an old alfalfa field, or since sweet clover, or what is commonly known as "bee clover," has the same bacteria on its roots as alfalfa soil taken from around these plants will answer. If this is broadcasted it should be harrowed just as fast as it is scattered, since the light kills the bacteria.

The seed should be of a strong vitality and free from obnoxious weeds. It should be sown at the rate of from fifteen to twenty

pounds per acre, depending upon its quality and the character of the seed bed. It should either be put in with the seed attachment of the grain drill allowing the hoes to cover it lightly, or, if broadcasted it should be sown half one direction and half the other, as this gives more uniform distribution. It should be harrowed lightly, covering the bulk of the seed from one-fourth to one-half inch deep.

The seed bed for alfalfa should always be well settled before sowing and worked down to a fine condition on the surface. It is, therefore, never wise to plow land late, especially where a large amount of manure or green matter is turned under. If late plowing is necessary, the land should be well rolled to form a compact sub-surface soil—and harrowed to a fine seed bed on the surface.

There is always some danger of the plants being burned out in the fall sowing and if near a meadow the grasshoppers frequently destroy the young plants, but for ordinary upland the chances for a successful stand are much better than where spring sowing is practiced for the reason that the plants seeded in the spring are usually overcome by weeds and grass before they get set.

H. F. Miller.

Agricultural Experiment Station.

An Open Letter.

Lexington, Mo., Aug. 6, 1908.
To The Hon. County Court:

The undersigned, who were judges and clerks at the state primary election held on the 4th inst., desire to call your attention to the conditions surrounding the court house precinct and to suggest a remedy therefor.

First, there is the fact that this is one of the largest precincts in all the state. Had a full vote been cast there would have been, approximately, eighteen hundred, whereas there were only a thousand. If a full vote had been cast the judges and clerks would not have finished in an extra twenty four hours for the reason that, as it was, they were exhausted and worn out. Efforts heretofore have been made to divide this vote, establishing precincts in other parts of the city and recently, at Prairie church, but experience has shown that the people insist on voting at the court house. Men who have served as judges and clerks at the court house heretofore know what is before them and refuse to serve a second time. It is almost impossible to get men who are quick and competent to submit to such an ordeal, however attractive the pay be, which it never is. In the cities a precinct rarely has more than three hundred votes. Why should a precinct like Lexington have six times as many? We therefore desire to suggest the following remedy for these evils which apply as well as the general election in November as they do at the state primary.

First: Establish four precincts in the four wards of the city at the usual voting places for the city elections, the second ward precinct at the city hall and require all residents of the city to vote in their own ward.

Second: Establish a precinct at the court house for the voters of the township living outside the city limits.

This will still make a large

precinct at the court house, but it is believed that it will take at least a thousand votes, if a full vote is cast, away from the court house precinct. Your earnest consideration is requested.

A. W. Allen
John Chamberlain
Eugene Weber
A. L. Utt
John Taubman
J. R. Moorehead
Albert Winkler
J. G. Crenshaw

Clerks.

Judges.

Don't Be Hoodwinked.

If you are a democrat answer me this one question, why did the Kansas City Star, St. Louis Post Dispatch, Globe-Democrat and every little republican paper in the state want Bill Cowherd defeated? Why did they not try and defeat one of the other democrats for governor? Now watch these same trust papers try and defeat old Bill Stone, the grandest Roman of them all. Why do they want Stone defeated? Because they know him to be a stalwart champion of the people without fear or shadow of turning. If you can shoot down the generals of an army you can easily defeat the army. How these paid trust sheets do hate a Democrat. And you know some poor namby pamby democrats that follow such journals. —Platte City Landmark.

Democrats might well take a lesson from Republicans in preserving harmony and keeping the party united. They are free from bickering and wranglings and heartburning, while the Democratic campaign closed with a most regrettable exhibition of crimination and recrimination. The result of such a campaign will be the exhibition of sore spots by disappointed office-seekers to the party's hurt. So long as there is no way to keep undesirable from seeking office, just so long will there be trouble over their defeat—and they are not worth the trouble they make. —Glasgow Missourian.

They said Stapel's candidacy was only a joke. Well Stapel made everybody know he was in the race, and they were compelled to sit up and take notice. It's a dangerous thing to go up against a live editor. —Boonville Advertiser.

Real Estate Transfers.

O A Jones to Violet E McLennan lot, consideration \$500.

Fritz Lefman to Annie Groves 80 acres of land, consideration \$6,500.

Mary E Hays to Robt A Hicklin 100 acres of land, consideration \$50.

E R Pool to Mady J Pool lot, consideration \$1.00.

John W Strodman to Henry W Riffe lot, consideration \$1,350.

Henry M Riffe to J A Wostermeyer 2 acres of land, consideration \$1,000.

John Strodman to E H Schroer lot, consideration \$300.

Jefferson C Zeysing to John Zeysing land consideration \$2,000.

Paul Rinhard & wife to Cornelia Francis Keefer land, consideration \$400.

Charley, William & James Sanders to Geo E Duncan 45 acres of land, consideration \$1.

E F Martin to Oscar C Cravens consideration \$1.

Edward J Thirkles & wife to Albert Amer, consideration \$575.

J W McBurney & wife to Jacob A McCauley lots, consideration \$175.

Gustav Haerle to Lex Water Co lot, consideration \$1,000.

Anna Roseen to Katie Francis-kato lot, consideration \$500.

John Nantie to Peter Mare LeNoach lot, consideration \$200.

I H Noyes & wife to Mary Kosmiski land, consideration \$1.

Charlotta Coen to Anna E Eggleston lot, consideration \$3,500.

Nannie B Chamlin to Alice S Peterling lot, consideration \$1.

David W Trine to Charlotta Coen lots, consideration \$984.50.

Harriet G Trine to Charlotta Coen lots consideration \$300.

Harriet G Trine to Anna E Eggleston lot, consideration \$300.

Chas Hoefler to John Sayer a lot in cemetery consideration, \$15.

Claus Hink to Henry C Angelbeck lot, consideration \$600.

Joseph Johnson & wife to Ralph A Huscher lot, consideration \$525.

Julia Biernback & hbd to W F Dunn lot, consideration \$300.

Richard Field & wife to Wentworth Military academy lots consideration \$1.

Frederick D Lieser & wife to Henry Basselman land, consideration \$15.

Mattie B Cole & et al to P Cooney lot, consideration \$5.

Gustav Haerle & wife to O O Crawford lot, consideration \$3,000.

Lexington Eagle Club to Gustav Haerle lot, consideration \$150.

Frank Meieranda to James W Greer lot, consideration \$275.

James E & Samuel W Adams to Albert S Bambridge land, consideration \$120.

Frank R Bear & wife to John F & Chas N Bear 20 acres of land, consideration \$10.

Jessie L Humphrey to Oscar C Cravens lot, consideration \$1,250.

Frank Meiranda to Jessie L Humphrey lot, consideration \$1,250.

Wm L Dade to Joseph Strohl land, consideration \$1,300.

Anna E Gladish et al to Phoebe Whitworth lot, consideration \$1.

Wm C Luebbert to Wm Luebbert land, consideration \$1,900.

Gustav Haerle to John H and Erasmus Darvin Hix lot, consideration \$6,000.

Alice Belle Hays to Katherine Hays Barnhardt lot, consideration \$1.

All Together.

With the primary election over some of our brother Democratic editors will probably realize now the folly of their rankerous support of the candidates of their choice before the primary. Loyalty to the individual is all well enough, but the amount of bitterness that was stirred up in some sections was entirely uncalled for and places those papers and editors now in the position either to retrench, or fail in their duty to the party. The manly thing to do is to "back up" but it will be rather galling on the part of some who permitted their most interest individualism to carry them beyond proper bounds. It has been a battle in which a great deal of ammunition was totally wasted, but our Republican foes need take no courage from that, for it is a significant fact that the Democratic country press has always got a full arsenal and the powder is kept eternally dry.

The campaign before the primary was just a preliminary bout before the November contest. We can understand why some of our country editors mixed in it. With the absolute security of Democratic victory in the state this fall and the best assurance of a national success, we have let our enthusiasm get into the affray walk away from those principles that would have been best to adhere to in the contest. There has been no irreparable harm done if we all get together and pull together for the ticket as chosen by the majority of the voters of the party at the election Tuesday. A solid formation is needed, for we are as apt to be attacked by the Republicans from the rear as in the foreground. With a solid formation we have won half the victory, for with the national platform before us we have something to fight for and with the consciousness of right and justice let us battle toward those goals.

All together! Let us get after them!—Cass County Democrat.

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